

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended)

An ~~The~~ oil base well working fluid ~~of claim 1 wherein said~~ comprising a major proportion and a minor proportion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, wherein said sealant material:

(a) has a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns;

and

(b) is oil and water wettable.

Claim 3 (currently amended)

The oil base well working fluid of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said fluid.

Claim 4 (currently amended)

The oil base well working fluid of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, further comprising a fluid loss additive.

Claim 5 (currently amended)

~~The~~ An oil base well working fluid ~~of claim 4 wherein said~~ comprising:

- (a) a major proportion of oil and a minor proportion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said material having a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and
- (b) a fluid loss additive is selected from the group consisting of asphaltic materials, organophilic humates, and organophilic lignosulfonates.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended)

~~The~~ A water base well working fluid ~~of claim 6 wherein said~~ comprising a major portion of water and minor portion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material:

- (a) has a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and
- (b) is oil and water wettable.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

The water base well working fluid from claim [[6]] 7 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 2 to about 50 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said fluid.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

The water base well working fluid of claim [[6]] 7 further comprising a fluid loss additive.

Claim 10 (currently amended)

A The water base well working fluid from Claim 9 wherein said comprising:

(a) a major portion of water and minor portion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material having a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and

(b) a fluid loss additive is selected from the group consisting of lignite, starch, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, and polyacrylates.

Claim 11 (original)

A method of decreasing seepage and whole mud loss to subterranean formations during a drilling process having a drill string, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a drilling fluid composition comprising oil and water wettable ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said material having a particle size ranging from 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and

circulating said drilling fluid in said drill string during said drilling process.

Claim 12 (original)

The method of claim 11 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said drilling fluid.

Claim 13 (original)

The method of claim 11 wherein said drilling fluid is an oil base well working fluid further comprising a fluid loss additive.

Claim 14 (previously presented)

The method of claim 11 wherein said drilling fluid is a water base well working fluid containing a fluid loss additive.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented)

A composition of well working fluids comprising ground elastomeric crumb rubber particles range in size from about 0.5 microns to about 425 microns.

Claim 17 (currently amended)

The composition of well working fluids of claim 16 wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber particles are ~~added to said well working fluids~~ at concentrations of about 1 pound per 42 gallon oilfield barrel to about 80 pounds per barrel.

Claim 18 (currently amended)

The oil base well working fluid of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein said material is ~~added to said well working fluid~~ at concentrations of about 2 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel to about 20 pounds per barrel.

Claim 19 (currently amended)

The oil base well working fluid of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein said material has a particle size ranging from about 0.5 microns to about 425 microns.

Claim 20 (new)

The oil base well working fluid of claim 2 wherein said sealant material has been treated with a surfactant.

Claim 21 (new)

The water base well working fluid of claim 7 wherein said sealant material has been treated with a surfactant.